

## BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

1 2 3 4 5 6 In the matter of 7 SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, a Nevada ) 8 limited liability company and 10 JIMENEZ, husband and wife, 11 12 13

Arizona Corporation Commission **COMMISSIONERS** DOCKETED

GARY PIERCE, Chairman **BOB STUMP** SANDRA D. KENNEDY PAUL NEWMAN **BRENDA BURNS** 

JUL 3 0 2012 DOCKETED BY

DOCKET NO. S-20834A-12-0033

NR

DECISION NO. 73279

RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, ORDER FOR RESTITUTION. ORDER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND Respondents. CONSENT TO SAME

> RE: SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ

Respondents SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ elect to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal under Articles 11 and 12 of the Securities Act of Arizona, A.R.S. § 44-1801 et seq. ("Securities Act") with respect to this Order To Cease and Desist, Order for Restitution, Order for Administrative Penalties and Consent to Same ("Order"). Respondents admit the jurisdiction of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission"); admit the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order; and consent to the entry of this Order by the Commission.

I.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC ("SOUTHWEST") is a manager-managed limited liability company organized under the laws of the state of Nevada on January 22, 2010. SOUTHWEST is located in Mesa, Arizona with facilities in Tucson, Arizona.

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2. RICK J. JIMENEZ ("JIMENEZ") is and was, at all relevant times, a married man and a resident of Mesa, Arizona. JIMENEZ is the president, Chief Operations Officer and Chief Executive Officer of SOUTHWEST. According to the records of the Nevada Secretary of State, JIMENEZ is also a manager of SOUTHWEST.

- 3. SOUTHWEST and JIMENEZ may be referred to collectively as "Respondents."
- 4. SUSAN JIMENEZ has been, at all relevant times, the spouse of JIMENEZ. SUSAN JIMENEZ may be referred to as "Respondent Spouse." Respondent Spouse is joined in this action under A.R S. § 44-2031(C) solely for purposes of determining the liability of the marital community of JIMENEZ.
- 5. At all relevant times, JIMENEZ was acting for his own benefit and for the benefit or in furtherance of his marital community.
- 6. In December 2011, a person claiming to represent SOUTHWEST placed an unsolicited telephone call ("cold-call") to a resident of Wisconsin offering him the opportunity to purchase Units in SOUTHWEST. The salesman represented that he was located in Tucson, Arizona. According to the salesman, the Wisconsin resident had an opportunity to invest in a private company, SOUTHWEST, before it went "public." The Wisconsin resident stated that he had never invested a private company before and had limited investment experience. The salesman encouraged the Wisconsin resident to invest immediately because the SOUTHWEST had a "ticker" symbol and had submitted paperwork to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").
- 7. As of June 15, 2012, no documents have been filed with the SEC under the name of SOUTHWEST.
- 8. The salesman represented to the potential investor that he was a salesman for SOUTHWEST and received eight percent of the investment amount for any sales he makes. The salesman represented his title as being "Senior Project Manager" of SOUTHWEST.
- 9. The salesman represented to the Wisconsin offeree that SOUTHWEST already had investors who resided in Wisconsin, Nevada and Hawaii.

- 10. The salesman provided the Wisconsin offeree a copy of a subscription agreement and a Confidential Private Placement Memorandum ("PPM") dated May 15, 2010. The salesman also provided the Wisconsin offeree with access to the SOUTHWEST website.
- 11. According to the PPM, the Units offered by SOUTHWEST are for accredited investors only. When told that the Wisconsin offeree was not accredited, the salesman stated that SOUTHWEST could accept a limited number of non-accredited investors.

## FOR ACCREDITED INVESTORS ONLY

SouthWest BioFuels, LLC (the "Company") is a Nevada corporation recently formed to develop and market biodiesel fuel formed from feedstock generated by the farming of algae. The Company plans to offer biodiesel fuel to distributors for blending with petroleum diesel fuel. The Company also plans to aggressively market biodiesel fuel to the general public through independent gasoline stations across the western United States. Further, the Company has contracted with several commercial trucking and construction concerns to provide and deliver our biodiesel fuel. The Company plans to use the net proceeds from this offering to purchase/lease land for the farming of algae, to build out the aforementioned land to produce algae, to build and maintain bio-reactors for the production of fuel, rent, salaries, management and consulting compensation, research and development, advertising and marketing costs, and for general working capital purposes. . . .

12. The Investment Summary section of the PPM describes the offering by SOUTHWEST as follows:

## The Offering

Issuer . . . SouthWest BioFuels LLC, a Nevada corporation

Securities Offered . . . The Company is offering up to three hundred units each consisting of 25,000 shares of preferred stock and 5,000 common stock purchase warrants. The preferred stock will be paid dividends quarterly equal to ten percent (10%) of the Company's net profit for that quarter. No public market for the Company's securities existed prior to this offering (the "Offering") and the Company does not anticipate that any significant public market for the units or warrants will develop after the consummation of the Offering. . . .

Use of Proceeds . . . The net proceeds of the Offering will be utilized to purchase/lease and build out farmland to produce algae feedstock as well as required equipment to process said feedstock into biodiesel fuel, pay consulting fees, and for general working capital purposes. . . .

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Dividend Paid on Preferred Stock . . . The Preferred Stockholders are guaranteed a dividend equal to ten percent (10%) of the net profit of the Company, divided equally among the issued and outstanding shares of preferred stock. . . .

Preferred Stock Dividend Payment Terms . . . The Preferred stock dividends are payable on a quarterly basis.

Distribution of Securities . . . The Units will be offered by the Company until June 1, 2012, unless extended by the company for up to an additional 180 days. Subscriptions will only be accepted from Accredited Investors, as that term is defined in Regulation D promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. . . .

- 13. Even though SOUTHWEST is a limited liability company, the securities offered are described in the PPM as Units that includes shares of preferred and common stock.
  - 14. The PPM describes how the funds raised from investors will be used.

#### **USE OF PROCEEDS**

The maximum gross proceeds from the sale of the Units are \$7,500,000. The net proceeds from the offering are expected to be approximately \$6,000,000 after the payment of offering costs including printing, mailing, legal accounting costs, and potential selling commissions and finder's or referral fees that may be incurred. This will include an additional field office and other marketing expenses for expansion. The proceeds from the offering of the Units will be utilized to purchase/lease and build out farmland to produce algae feedstock as well as required equipment to process said feedstock into biodiesel fuel, pay consulting fees, and for general working capital purposes. The net proceeds from this offering may be allocated differently at management's discretion.

- 15. The PPM states that "[t]here is no requirement that any minimum number of Units be sold and therefore no escrow will be established for subscription funds. Subscription funds may be deposited by the Company directly into its operating account for use as described in the Memorandum."
  - 16. The PPM describes the securities as follows:

#### **Preferred Stock**

The Company's Board of Directors has the authority to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock, no par value, with such rights, preferences and privileges as they may determine.

Holders of Series A Preferred Stock are entitled to dividends equal to ten percent (10%) of the net profit of the Company, paid quarterly. These dividends will be distributed equally among the issued outstanding shares of Preferred Stock. Dividends are cumulative and will be paid in full before any distributions to

holders of Common Stock. . . . Holders of Preferred Stock are not entitled to any voting rights. Upon liquidation or dissolution, the holder of each outstanding share of Preferred Stock will be entitled to share equally in the funds legally available for distribution to such stockholders after payment of all liabilities.

## The Warrants

The Units include a total of 1,500,000 Warrants to purchase 1,500,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock for a purchase price of \$1.00 per share, exercisable at any time until December 31, 2012 unless extended by a vote of the Board of Directors and approved by the stockholders. The Warrants include customary anti-dilution provisions providing for price and amount adjustments in the event of stock splits, reverse stock splits, recapitalizations, stock dividends and similar transactions. No adjustments are made for the issuance of additional shares of capital stock by the Company. . . .

- 17. SOUTHWEST's "success is substantially dependent on the performance of its executive officers and key employees." SOUTHWEST "will generally be dependent upon [JIMENEZ] for the direction, management and daily supervision" of SOUTHWEST's operation.
- 18. On June 28, 2011, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Securities Commission issued a Summary Order to Cease and Desist against SOUTHWEST for violations of the Pennsylvania Securities Act.
- 19. Respondents failed to disclose the Pennsylvania Securities Commission's Summary Order to Cease and Desist to offerees and investors. The PPM failed to disclose the Pennsylvania Securities Commission's Summary Order to Cease and Desist.
- 20. Salespeople for SOUTHWEST represented to at least two investors that SOUTHWEST was already producing biofuel from algae in quantities sufficient to sell to third parties. No sales have been made.
- 21. From September 2010 through January 2012, Respondents raised \$635,100 from 45 investors. One investor received \$24,250 repayment.
  - 22. JIMENEZ has not been registered as a securities salesman or dealer.
  - 23. SOUTHWEST has not been registered as a dealer.

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II.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Article XV of the Arizona Constitution and the Securities Act.
- 2. Respondents offered or sold securities within or from Arizona, within the meaning of A.R.S. §§ 44-1801(15), 44-1801(21), and 44-1801(26).
- 3. Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1841 by offering or selling securities that were neither registered nor exempt from registration.
- 4. Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1842 by offering or selling securities while neither registered as dealers or salesmen nor exempt from registration.
- 5. Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1991 by (a) employing a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud, (b) making untrue statements or misleading omissions of material facts, or (c) engaging in transactions, practices, or courses of business that operate or would operate as a fraud or deceit.
  - a. Respondents misrepresented to an offeree that SOUTHWEST was about to "go public" in a short period of time and had filed papers with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
  - b. Respondents misrepresented to at least two investors that SOUTHWEST was already producing biofuel from algae in quantities sufficient to sell to third parties.
  - c. Respondents failed to disclose to offerees and investors that SOUTHWEST was the subject of a Summary Order to Cease and Desist issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Securities Commission for violations of the Pennsylvania Securities Act.
- 6. Respondents' conduct is grounds for a cease and desist order pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032.

- 7. Respondents' conduct is grounds for an order of restitution pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032.
- 8. Respondents' conduct is grounds for administrative penalties under A.R.S. § 44-2036.
- 9. RICK J. JIMENEZ acted for the benefit of his respective marital community and, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 25-214 and 25-215, this Order of restitution and administrative penalties is a debt of the community.
- 10. RICK J. JIMENEZ directly or indirectly controlled persons or entities within the meaning of A.R.S. § 44-1999, including but not limited to SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC. Therefore, RICK J. JIMENEZ is jointly and severally liable under A.R.S. § 44-1999 to the same extent as SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC for any violations of A.R.S. § 44-1991.

## III.

## ORDER

THEREFORE, on the basis of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Respondents' consent to the entry of this Order, attached and incorporated by reference, the Commission finds that the following relief is appropriate, in the public interest, and necessary for the protection of investors:

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032, that Respondents, and any of Respondents' agents, employees, successors and assigns, permanently cease and desist from violating the Securities Act.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondents comply with the attached Consent to Entry of Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2032, that SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC and RICK J. JIMENEZ, individually, and the marital community of RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ, jointly and severally shall pay restitution to the Commission in the principal amount of \$610,850, subject to legal setoffs pursuant to A.A.C. R14-4-308.

Payment is due in full on the date of this Order. Payment shall be made to the "State of Arizona" to be placed in an interest-bearing account controlled by the Commission. Any principal amount outstanding shall accrue interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum from the date of purchase until paid in full. Interest in the amount of \$69,861.37 has accrued from the date of purchase to July 18, 2012.

The Commission shall disburse the funds on a pro-rata basis to investors shown on the records of the Commission. Any restitution funds that the Commission cannot disburse because an investor refuses to accept such payment, or any restitution funds that cannot be disbursed to an investor because the investor is deceased and the Commission cannot reasonably identify and locate the deceased investor's spouse or natural children surviving at the time of the distribution, shall be disbursed on a pro-rata basis to the remaining investors shown on the records of the Commission. Any funds that the Commission determines it is unable to or cannot feasibly disburse shall be transferred to the general fund of the state of Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-2036, that SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC and RICK J. JIMENEZ, individually, and the marital community of RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ, shall jointly and severally with all Respondents against whom orders are entered pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$50,000. Payment is due in full on the date of this Order. Payment shall be made to the "State of Arizona." Any amount outstanding shall accrue interest from the date judgment is entered at the rate of 10 percent per annum.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that payments received by the state of Arizona shall first be applied to the restitution obligation. Upon payment in full of the restitution obligation, payments shall be applied to the penalty obligation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that if any Respondent fails to comply with this order, the Commission may bring further legal proceedings against that Respondent, including application to the superior court for an order of contempt.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that no finding of fact or conclusion of law contained in this 1 Order shall be deemed binding against any Respondent under this Docket Number who has not 2 consented to the entry of this Order. 3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become effective immediately. 4 BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 5 6 7 COMMISSIONE CHAIRMAN 8 COMMISSIONER **COMMISSIONER** 11 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, ERNEST G. JOHNSON, 12 Executive Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have hereunto set my hand and caused the 13 official seal of the Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this \_\_\_ 31 fc 14 15 16 17 ERNEST G. JOHNSON **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 18 19 **DISSENT** 20 21 22 DISSENT 23 This document is available in alternative formats by contacting Shaylin A. Bernal, ADA 24 Coordinator, voice phone number 602-542-3931, e-mail sabernal@azcc.gov. 25 (wlc) 26

## CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

- 1. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ admit the jurisdiction of the Commission over the subject matter of this proceeding. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ acknowledge that they have been fully advised of their right to a hearing to present evidence and call witnesses and SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ knowingly and voluntarily waive any and all rights to a hearing before the Commission and all other rights otherwise available under Article 11 of the Securities Act and Title 14 of the Arizona Administrative Code. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ acknowledge that this Order to Cease and Desist, Order for Restitution, Order for Administrative Penalties and Consent to Same ("Order") constitutes a valid final order of the Commission.
- 2. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ knowingly and voluntarily waive any right under Article 12 of the Securities Act to judicial review by any court by way of suit, appeal, or extraordinary relief resulting from the entry of this Order.
- 3. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ acknowledge and agree that this Order is entered into freely and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry. RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ have been represented by an attorney in this matter, they have reviewed this order with their attorney, Nathaniel Wadsworth, Esq., Rowley Chapman Barney & Buntrock, Ltd., and understand all terms it contains. RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ acknowledge that their attorney has apprised them of their rights regarding any conflicts of interest arising from dual representation. RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ acknowledge that they have each given their informed consent to such representation.
- 5. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC and RICK J. JIMENEZ admit the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC and RICK J.

JIMENEZ agree that they shall not contest the validity of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Order in any present or future proceeding in which the Commission or any other state agency is a party concerning the denial or issuance of any license or registration required by the state to engage in the practice of any business or profession.

- 6. By consenting to the entry of this Order, SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ agree not to take any action or to make, or permit to be made, any public statement denying, directly or indirectly, any Finding of Fact or Conclusion of Law in this Order or creating the impression that this Order is without factual basis. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ will undertake steps necessary to assure that all of their agents and employees understand and comply with this agreement.
- 7. While this Order settles this administrative matter between SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ and the Commission, they understand that this Order does not preclude the Commission from instituting other administrative or civil proceedings based on violations that are not addressed by this Order.
- 8. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ understand that this Order does not preclude the Commission from referring this matter to any governmental agency for administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings that may be related to the matters addressed by this Order.
- 9. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ understand that this Order does not preclude any other agency or officer of the state of Arizona or its subdivisions from instituting administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings that may be related to matters addressed by this Order.
- 10. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC and RICK J. JIMENEZ agree that they will not apply to the state of Arizona for registration as a securities dealer or salesman or for licensure as an investment adviser or investment adviser representative until such time as all restitution and penalties under this Order are paid in full.

- 11. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC and RICK J. JIMENEZ agree that they will not exercise any control over any entity that offers or sells securities or provides investment advisory services within or from Arizona until such time as all restitution and penalties under this Order are paid in full.
- 12. RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ acknowledge that any restitution or penalties imposed by this Order are obligations of the Respondent as well as the marital community
- 13. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ consent to the entry of this Order and agree to be fully bound by its terms and conditions.
- 14. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ acknowledge and understand that if they fail to comply with the provisions of the order and this consent, the Commission may bring further legal proceedings against them, including application to the superior court for an order of contempt.
- 15. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ understand that default shall render them liable to the Commission for its costs of collection and interest at the maximum legal rate.
- 16. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ agree and understand that if they fail to make any payment as required in the Order, any outstanding balance shall be in default and shall be immediately due and payable without notice or demand. SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ agree and understand that acceptance of any partial or late payment by the Commission is not a waiver of default by the Commission.

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1	17. RICK J. JIMENEZ represents that he is the managing member of SOUTHWEST
2	BIOFUELS, LLC and has been authorized by SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC to enter into this
3	Order for and on behalf of it.
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5	RICK J. JIMENEZ
6	SUSAN C. JIMENEZ
7	STATE OF ARIZONA )
8	) ss
9	County of Maricopa )
10	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE me this 10 day of July , 2012.
11	M P P P
12	AND ARY PUBLIC
13	My commission expires:  NOTARY PUBLIC - ARIZONA MARICOPA COUNTY
14	Aug. 31, 2013  My Commission Expires  August 31, 2013
15	SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC
16	
17	RICK I. LIMENEZ  Managing Member of Southwest Biofuels, LLC
18	STATE OF ARIZONA )
19	County of Maricopa)
20	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE me this 6 day of 2012.
21	, 2012.
22	Ma Chal
23	NOTARY PUBLIC
24	My commission expires:  JAMI SMITH  NOTARY PUBLIC - ARIZONA  NOTARY PUBLIC - ARIZONA  COLINTY
25	Aug. 31, 2013  MARICOPA COUNTY My Commission Expires August 31, 2013
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1	SERVICE LIST FOR: JIMENEZ	SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C.	
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3	ROWLEY CHAPMAN BARNEY & BUNTROCK Nathaniel Wadsworth, Esq. 63 E. Main Street, Ste. 501 Mesa, Arizona 85201-7436 Attorneys for Southwest Biofuels, LLC, Rick J. Jimenez and Susan C. Jimenez		
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## 1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 2 3 **COMMISSIONERS** 4 GARY PIERCE, Chairman **BOB STUMP** 5 SANDRA D. KENNEDY PAUL NEWMAN 6 **BRENDA BURNS** 7 In the matter of: DOCKET NO. S-20834A-12-0033 8 NOTICE OF FILING OF PROPOSED SOUTHWEST BIOFUELS, LLC, a Nevada **OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM** 9 limited liability company 10 and 11 RICK J. JIMENEZ and SUSAN C. JIMENEZ, husband and wife, 12 Respondents. 13 14 Pursuant to A.A.C. R14-4-303, you are hereby notified that the attached: Order To Cease 15 And Desist, Order For Restitution, Order For Administrative Penalties And Consent To Same Re: 16 Southwest Biofuels, LLC, Rick J. Jimenez and Susan C. Jimenez was filed with the Arizona 17 Corporation Commission's Docket Control. 18 Dated: July 10, 2012 By: 19 20 I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document on all parties of record 21 in this proceeding by mailing a copy thereof, properly addressed with first class postage prepaid to: 22 23 24 25 26

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ROWLEY CHAPMAN BARNEY & BUNTROCK Nathaniel Wadsworth, Esq. 63 E. Main Street, Ste. 501 Mesa, Arizona 85201-7436 Attorneys for Southwest Biofuels, LLC, Rick J. Jimenez and Susan C. Jimenez By: